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MEXICO.

Relative to inspection of vessels at Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, January 22, 1897.

GENERAL: I beg to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office dated January 8, 1897.

I have given the subject of better inspection service much thought, but as there will be another consul here before long I would rather leave any recommendations that may be made to him, informing him what, in my opinion, should be done. Should I make any recommendation it would be to arrange with one of the national medical officers here to inspect the vessels bound for the United States, and the consul act on his report. The cost would be little. I think it could be done, boat hire and all, for about five hundred dollars (\$500) per annum. I would expect consul to go with the medical officer whenever he could do so, especially in the unhealthy months of the year, or as soon as yellow fever appeared. At present there is no great danger as all vessels discharge cargo and lie in open bay, crews are prevented from coming ashore, and the inspection by the health officer of vessels entering is very thorough, thus causing the vessel to use great care with regard to sanitary measures. The taking on board of contagious diseases is in this way in a great measure prevented, but within the next year or two the docks in course of construction may be finished, and vessels discharging and taking cargo therefrom, crews mingling with the people, and the easy way for sailors to go to the lowest haunts of the city and contract disease—all this will likely have a tendency to make it more dangerous to the health of the vessel and increase the risk of taking contagious diseases to the United States.

My method has been to inquire of the health officer as to the sanitary condition of vessel on her arrival; in the hot months to make a personal inspection. This inspection consists in examining the quarters of the men, tasting water and food, looking over the crew to see whether they appear ill or not, and examining the ship as to cleanliness. If I find a man ill aboard I ask for a physician's certificate stating his condition, etc. I think the fact that the consul comes aboard to inspect the vessel has a tendency to cause more care on the part of officers and crew, and is really a good thing.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES SCHAEFER,
United States Consul.

TURKEY.

Quarantine regulations against introduction of plague.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 10, 1897.

SIR: The Department is in receipt of a dispatch from the United States minister at Constantinople, No. 1146, of the 23d ultimo, transmitting copy of a circular note from the ministry of foreign affairs of Turkey and of the new regulations for quarantine in the Persian Gulf to guard against the plague now prevailing in India.

I have the honor to inclose herewith a translation of the latter documents for the information of the Marine Hospital Service.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

RICHARD OLNEY.